



UNUSUAL TALES

Extraordinary Stories Never Before Told



UNUSUAL TALES

No 7

10¢

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION



In This Issue
THE PANTAGON
THE
MAN WHO PAINTED
ON THIN AIR

MAN WHO PAINTED
ON THIN AIR



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

Boys! Girls! Men! Women!

Do You Want \$50⁰⁰ or \$100⁰⁰ Extra Money?

\$ HERE'S QUICK \$
\$ EASY WAY TO EARN IT! \$

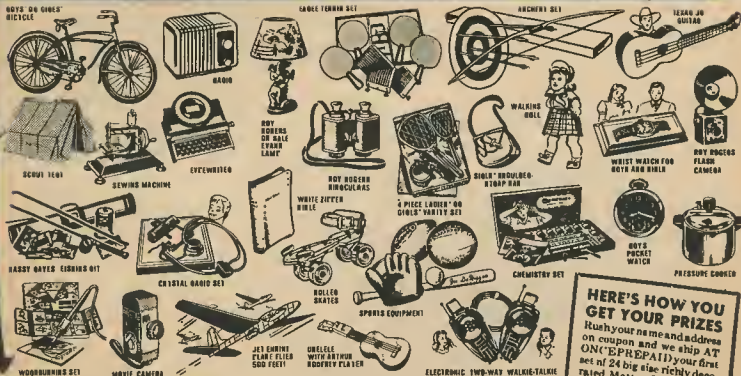
Send No Money—Merely Mail Coupon
We Ship You 24 Beautiful Super Size Religious Wall Mottos
\$ ON CREDIT! Friends, Neighbors and Others Buy on Sight!

Serve the Lord while you earn extra cash... up to \$50 to \$100! Just mail the coupon below with your name and address—SEND NO MONEY—and the FUNman will ship to you POSTPAID and NO CREDIT 24 extra large richly decorated Religious Wall Mottos. These gorgeous, inspiring mottos sell amazingly fast at just 35¢ each. Your friends, neighbors and other folks buy on sight; many take six or more for every room in the house. Many boys and girls, men and women sell out all 24 mottos in a few hours and make \$2.40 for themselves in a hurry.

HERE'S HOW YOU EARN MONEY FAST

When you have sold all 24 mottos, you will have collected \$8.40 altogether. Merely send \$6.00 to the FUNman in payment for the mottos and keep all the rest of the \$2.40 for yourself. You can probably sell out in a single afternoon... and that means you can make the full \$2.40 profit after school or on a Saturday. If you prefer you can earn exciting prizes like those shown below. Help our Lord crush graft, sin, greed and evil thinking... and earn welcome extra cash or prizes. Rush Coupon TODAY!

OR YOUR CHOICE OF PRIZES GIVEN



The FUNman, Dept. X-109, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Ill. **FREE BIG PRIZE CATALOG**

Please rush to me on 15 days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35¢ each. Also include big Prize Catalog FREE. I will remit amount required as explained under description of prize in BIG PRIZE CATALOG within 15 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained

NAME _____ AGE _____

STREET or RFD _____

TOWN _____ Zone _____ STATE _____

FREE Membership in Funman's Fun Club

EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 15 days, and we'll give you FREE a year's Membership in the FUNman's Fun Club. Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours—PLUS many extra surprises!

HERE'S HOW YOU GET YOUR PRIZES

Rush your name and address on coupon and we ship AT ONCE PREPAID your first set of 24 big size richly decorated Mottos On 15 Days TRUST. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the \$8.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST and big PRIZE CATALOG FREE!

SEND NO MONEY!... We Trust You!

The FUNman, Dept. X-109, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Illinois

UNUSUAL TALES

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THIS SEAL OF APPROVAL APPEARS ONLY ON COMIC MAGAZINES WHICH HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY REVIEWED, PRIOR TO PUBLICATION, BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY, AND FOUND TO HAVE MET THE HIGH STANDARDS OF MORALITY AND GOOD TASTE REQUIRED BY THE CODE. THE CODE AUTHORITY OPERATES APART FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL PUBLISHER AND EXERCISES INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT WITH RESPECT TO CODE-COMPLIANCE. A COMIC MAGAZINE BEARING ITS SEAL IS YOUR ASSURANCE OF GOOD READING AND PICTORIAL MATTER.

Alfred P. Slipp Executive Editor

THERE ISN'T A PROMOTER ALIVE WHO WOULDN'T GIVE HIS EYETOOTH FOR AN ACT LIKE THAT ONE. IT WAS THE MOST... IT WAS A SUPER-SPECTACULAR SMASH SENSATION, AND YOURS TRULY HAD IT SIGNED UP! YOURS TRULY, AL MORTON, WAS THE EXCLUSIVE PROMOTER OF...



THE MAN WHO PAINTED on AIR



DITKO

THE NIGHT I MET HIM, I WAS DOWN IN THE DUMPS. A SERIES OF FLOPEROOS HAD LEFT ME FLAT BROKE, AND I WAS SITTING IN A CAFETERIA, FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF, WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN I SPOTTED THIS SCREWBALL WITH THE BERET...

HMFF -- AND I THOUGHT I HAD TROUBLES. THAT REFUGEE FROM A BOOBY HATCH IS TALKING TO HIMSELF... WITH GESTURES YET!

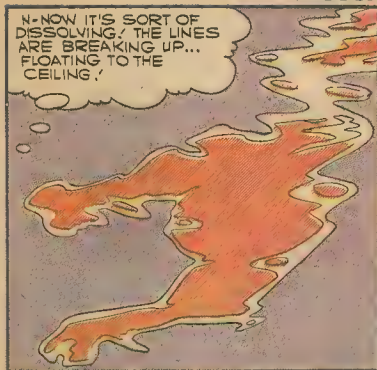


BUT THEN I LOOKED CLOSER...

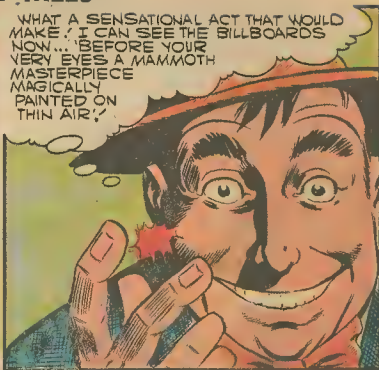
H-HE HAS A BRUSH IN HIS HAND! HE'S PAINTING ON AIR!



UNUSUAL TALES



N-NOW IT'S SORT OF DISSOLVING. THE LINES ARE BREAKING UP... FLOATING TO THE CEILING.



WHAT A SENSATIONAL ACT THAT WOULD MAKE. I CAN SEE THE BILLBOARDS NOW... BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES A MAMMOTH MASTERPIECE MAGICALLY PAINTED ON THIN AIR!



HEY, MISTER!

?



THAT THING YOU JUST PAINTED ON AIR... COULD YOU DO IT AGAIN?

OF COURSE... BUT IF YOU DESIRE A PORTRAIT...



... LET ME USE REGULAR OILS ON CANVAS. THESE AIR PICTURES LAST SUCH A SHORT TIME. THEY ARE VALUELESS.

VALUELESS? ARE YOU NUTS?!



THEY'RE TERRIFIC! YOU CAN MAKE A MILLION BUCKS WITH THEM... A TRILLION IF YOU LET ME HANDLE YOU. C'MON -- I'LL PROVE I'M NOT TALKING THROUGH MY HAT.

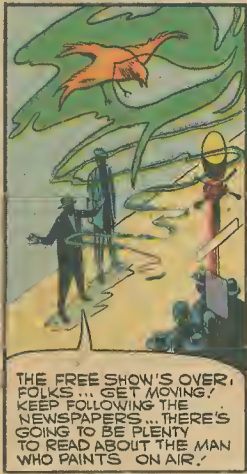
UNUSUAL TALES

NOW GO AHEAD... PAINT ONE RIGHT OUT HERE!

B-BUT...

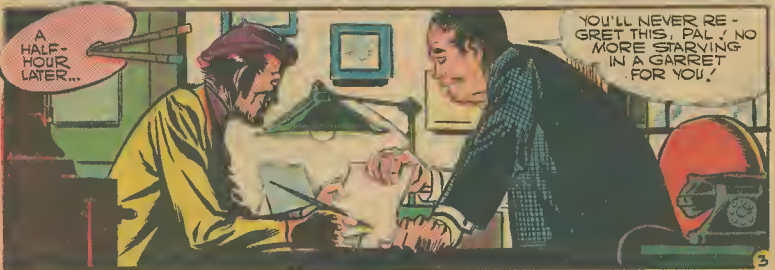
DO WHAT I TELL YOU! I WANT EVERYBODY TO SEE, AND JUST WATCH THEIR EYES POP!

I AM IN YOUR HANDS...



I WAS PULLING HIM AWAY, YAKKING SO HARD ABOUT HOW THE CROWD'S REACTION PROVED HOW MUCH DOUGH WE COULD CLEAN UP THAT I HARDLY HEARD WHAT THE OLD DAME SAID...

THE POOR BIRD FLEW INTO THE PICTURE AS IT WAS DISSOLVING... AND NOW IT'S DEAD!



A HALF-HOUR LATER...

YOU'LL NEVER REGRET THIS, PAL! NO MORE STARVING IN A GARRET FOR YOU!

Boys! Girls! Men! Women!

We'll Send You These 2 Boxes of Sensational New First-Time Ideas in **GREETING CARDS**

and Show You How
to Make

\$75 to \$500⁰⁰ AND
MORE

Easily and Quickly
in Your Spare Time

Send No Money—Mail Coupon Below!

If you can use extra cash, here's the easiest, pleasantest way to make it. The exquisite Greeting Cards in the Royal Deluxe 3-In-1 All-Occasion Assortment win friends by the score. An exciting new idea . . . 3 different popular shapes all in one Assortment! And the HI-LITES Humorous Assortment is simply irresistible. The moment friends and neighbors see these two spectacular, new-idea assortments, they want them. Each Assortment sells for such a low price, you'll take orders right and left, keep up to 50¢ of every \$1.00 you take in.

Making Money Is Easy—Fast—Fun!

Everyone falls in love with these new greeting cards instantly. Let our new-idea Assortments make more money FOR YOU than ever before in spare time. See how wonderfully easy it is to sell greeting cards which say in the modern manner what's in the sender's heart for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Baby-Births, and many other occasions.

ORGANIZATIONS: Churches, clubs, Veterans' auxiliaries, etc. can add hundreds of dollars to your treasury funds so easily with these fast selling assortments.

40 More Popular Money-Makers

These thrilling new All-Occasion Assortments shown are only 2 of dozens of fast sellers. We'll send details of charming Mandarin Parchment Assortment, lovely new Golden Photochrome Assortment, gorgeous Gift Wrappings, a variety of

beautiful Stationery and Personal Notes, Imported Napkins, Children's Books, a host of Novelty Gift Items—and an exquisite new assortment of Easter Greeting Cards.

Be First! Mail Coupon TODAY!

See for yourself! Don't send a penny. Mail coupon for the 2 assortments shown here, send us on approval, all postage paid. We'll include FREE Illustrated Catalog and details of our amazingly simple Money-Making Plan. Mail the coupon TODAY!

WALLACE BROWN, INC. 11 East 26th St., Dept. A-123
New York 10, N.Y.



HI-LITES
HUMOROUS ASSORTMENT
Birthdays, Anniversaries,
Get-Well, Baby Births, Etc.
Terrific designs that tickle
the funny bone, in new
smart TALL shape, delight-
fully decorated with
sequins, glitter, flocking.
The gayest and cleverest
cards ever created.



SEND NO MONEY

Paste Coupon on postcard
or mail in envelope

Wallace Brown, Inc., Dept. A-123,
11 East 26th St., New York 10, N. Y.

I want to make extra money. Please send me on approval the 2 Greeting Card Assortments shown above, plus FREE Illustrated Catalog and Money-Making Plan.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

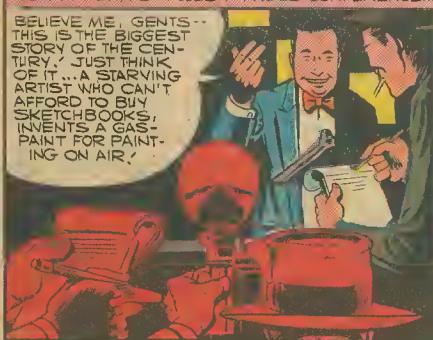
State _____

If writing for an organization,
give its name _____

UNUSUAL TALES

THE NEXT DAY, I CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE...

BELIEVE ME, GENTS -- THIS IS THE BIGGEST STORY OF THE CENTURY! JUST THINK OF IT... A STARVING ARTIST WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY SKETCHBOOKS, INVENTS A CAN OF PAINT FOR PAINTING ON AIR!



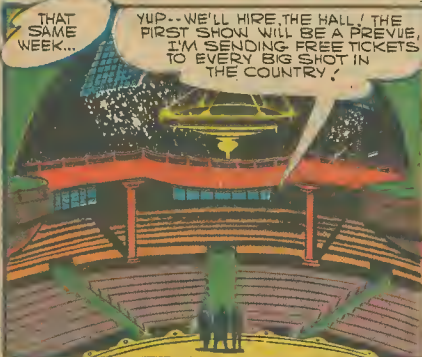
THEY ATE UP EVERY WORD! WE WOUND UP WITH MORE HEADLINES THAN THE HOPE DIAMOND HAS CARATS...

PAINT!
PORTRAITS
ON AIR
ARTIST PAINTS
ON THIN AIR
PICTURES AIR
AIR PAINTER
DISCOVERED



THAT SAME WEEK...

YUP--WE'LL HIRE THE HALL! THE FIRST SHOW WILL BE A PREVUE, I'M SENDING FREE TICKETS TO EVERY BIG SHOT IN THE COUNTRY!



Y--YOU MEAN CABINET MEMBERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS WILL COME TO SEE ME?

YOU CAN BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR THEY WILL! AND AFTER THEY SPREAD THE WORD, THIS JOINT'LL HAVE TO BUILD A DOZEN EXTRA BOX OFFICES TO HANDLE THE MOBS!



WE HAD JUST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO GO TILL THE PREVUE! THERE WASN'T A DETAIL THAT HADN'T BEEN TAKEN CARE OF... I HAD TIME ON MY HANDS...

WHAT A BREAK--WE TWO BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER! I HAVE TO KEEP PINCHING MYSELF TO MAKE SURE I'M NOT DREAMING!



I'M JITTERY... I GOT BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH! WHAT ABOUT KNOCKING OFF A QUICK SKETCH FOR ME RIGHT NOW--HUH? JUST TO MAKE SURE NOTHING CAN GO WRONG?

WITH PLEASURE!



UNUSUAL TALES

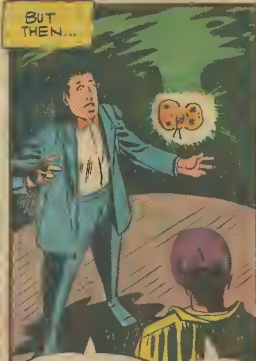


YOU CAN DO IT, ALL RIGHT...
I CAN SEE ALL THE DOUGH
POURING INTO THOSE BOX
OFFICES RIGHT NOW!



YOU FEEL
MUCH
BETTER,
EH?

YOU CAN SAY
THAT IN
'SPADES.'



BUT
THEN...

HEY--THAT MOTH!
WHEN THE GAS-
PAINT HIT IT...
IT DROPPED DEAD!

THERE'S
NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT...

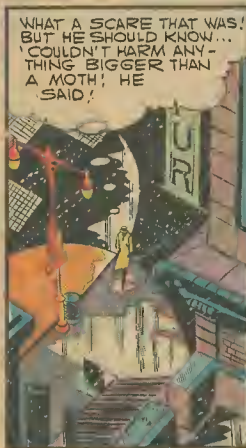


THE GAS IS
ONLY VERY
SLIGHTLY
NOXIOUS!
IT COULD NOT
POSSIBLY
HARM ANY-
THING LARGER
THAN A MOTH!

WHEW, I THOUGHT
FOR A SECOND I'D
HAVE TO CALL OFF
THE SHOW! SO
LONG, I'LL PICK
YOU UP TOMORROW!



GOOD NIGHT! TRY TO
SLEEP... AS I SHALL
DO THE MOMENT
I CLOSE THE
DOOR.



WHAT A SCARE THAT WAS!
BUT HE SHOULD KNOW...
'COULDN'T HARM ANY-
THING BIGGER THAN
A MOTH! HE
SAID!



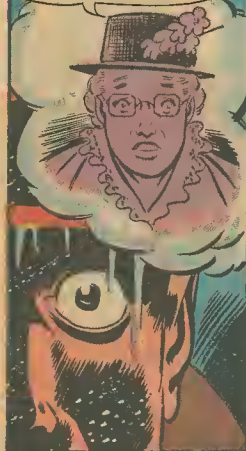
ALL OF A SUDDEN SOME-
THING-CLICKED UP WHERE
MY THINK-CELLS ARE...

HEY?!

UNUSUAL TALES

...AND I REMEMBERED...

THE POOR BIRD FLEW INTO THE PICTURE... AND NOW IT'S DEAD.



SURE, A BIRD'S BIGGER THAN A MOTH... SO WHAT? I'M JUST TWISTING MYSELF UP INTO KNOTS FOR NOTHING! BIRDS DROP DEAD EVERY DAY... OF OLD AGE OR THE COLD... THE GAS-PAINT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.



BUT I COULDN'T STOP WORRYING... I COULDN'T STOP POUNDING THE PAVEMENT, AND THAT'S HOW COME I FOUND MYSELF PARKED... UNDER HIS STUDIO AGAIN...



HAHAHA... HE SAID HE WAS GOING RIGHT TO SLEEP!

THIS WHOLE DEAL'S STARTING TO SMELL BAD! SOMETHING TELLS ME...



...I'M IN A SPOT WHERE A LITTLE EAVESDROPPING MIGHT GO A LONG WAY.



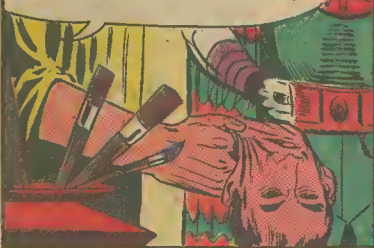
DOES THE EARTHLING PROMOTER SUSPECT ANYTHING?

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! HE THINKS ONLY OF MONEY... HE MAKES A PERFECT TOOL!



UNUSUAL TALES

IT IS GOOD THAT WE CHOSE SO WISELY! ANY OTHER EARTHLING MIGHT HAVE WONDERED OVERMUCH OF THE NATURE OF THE GAS-PAINT... HE MIGHT HAVE REALIZED THAT UP TILL NOW YOU HAVE ONLY USED IT IN TINY QUANTITIES IN ORDER TO DISGUISE THE FACT THAT IT IS A POWERFUL POISON!



AND THEN HE MIGHT HAVE SEEN THROUGH OUR PLAN TO ELIMINATE HIS COUNTRY'S LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY! FOR AT THE PREVUE TOMORROW, I SHALL PAINT A MAMMOTH AIR PICTURE, USING OUR TOTAL SUPPLY OF THE GAS PAINT.

YES - AND THEN THE GAS PAINT SHALL DRIFT OUT TO THE AUDIENCE...

THIS GREAT COUNTRY SHALL LOSE ITS LEADERS... AND WE OF THE PLANET XORDU SHALL GAIN CONTROL HERE!



I GO NOW -- SUCCESS TO YOUR MISSION!

THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! NOTHING SHALL GO WRONG!



'N- NOTHING SHALL GO WRONG! HE SAID! THE BIGGEST SMASHEROO ANY PROMOTER EVER HAD... AND (SOS) IT HAD TO TURN OUT TO BE A COOKED-UP SUCKER DEAL LIKE THIS!



I GOTTA DO SOMETHING FAST... BUT WHAT?

YOU'LL FIND OUT LATER WHAT I DID... BUT THIS WAS THE NEXT NIGHT NOW... THIS WAS THE DRESSING ROOM! IN FIVE MINUTES THE CURTAIN WOULD GO UP...

Y-YOU ALL RIGHT? EVERYTHING R-READY?



UNUSUAL TALES

THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... NOTHING SHALL GO WRONG!



HE'S HEADING FOR THE STAGE! THIS HAS TO WORK ... IT HAS TO!



I WASN'T THERE TO HEAR IT-- BUT THE JOINT WAS ROCKING WHEN HE TOOK HIS BOW...

THE FLOOD- LIGHTS ARE SO STRONG, I CANNOT SEE THE AUDIENCE! BUT MY VICTIMS ARE THERE ... I CAN HEAR THEM APPLAUDING!



THEN HE STARTED TO PAINT ON AIR... AND ALL THE TIME HE PAINTED, HE COULDN'T HEAR A PIN DROP...



LET THEM FEAST THEIR EYES! SOON THEY SHALL SEE ONLY THE DARKNESS OF DEATH!

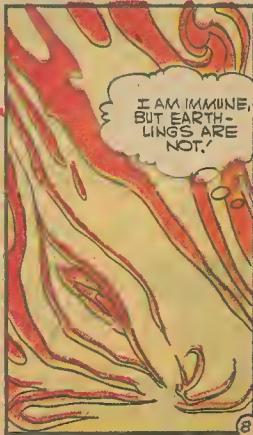
THE JOINT WAS ROCKING WITH APPLAUSE AGAIN ...



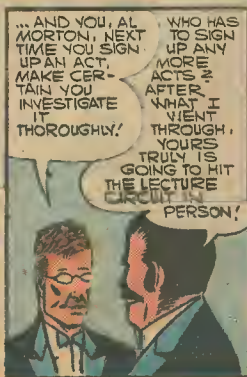
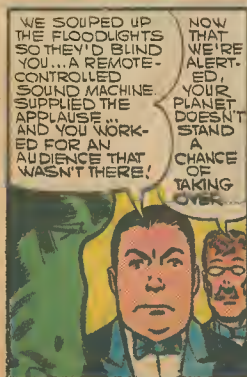
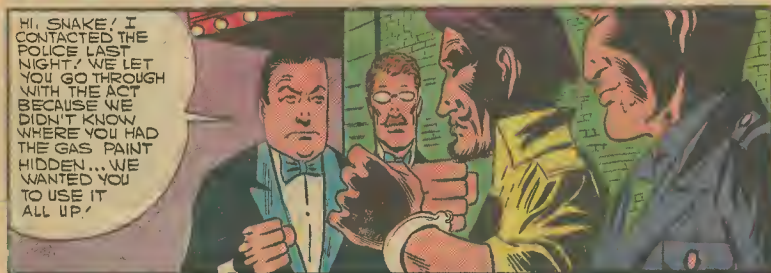
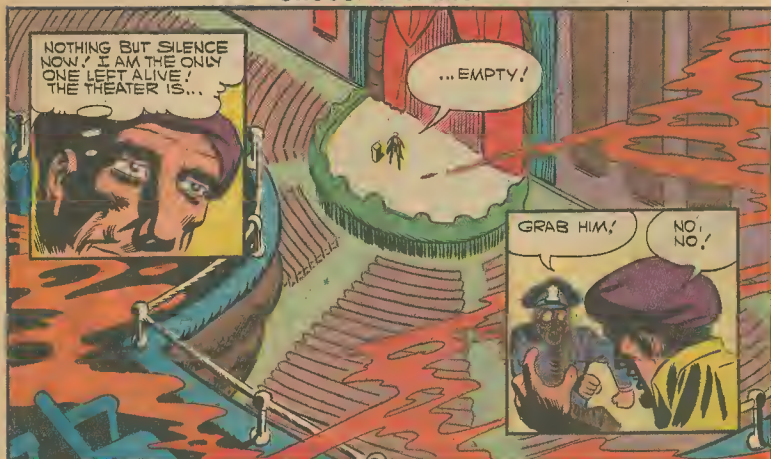
THE FANS I INSTALLED AT THE REAR OF THE STAGE HAVE BEGUN TO SPIN! THE FUMES HAVE BEGUN TO DRIFT OUT TO THE AUDIENCE!



I AM IMMUNE, BUT EARTH-LINGS ARE NOT!



UNUSUAL TALES



UNUSUAL TALES

THE MAN WHO COULD SEE TOMORROW



ME? I'M A PLAIN JOE! SO WHEN ALL THIS CRAZY STUFF STARTS HAPPENING, IT HITS ME LIKE A TON OF BRICKS. I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF IT-- IT SCARES ME!

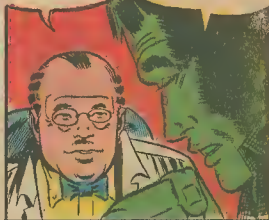
CAN'T FIND A THING WRONG WITH YOU / YOU COULDN'T BE IN BETTER SHAPE IF YOU TRIED!

BUT MY EYES, DOC! DID YOU CHECK MY EYES?!



YES, YOU'RE SLIGHTLY NEAR-SIGHTED! BUT NOT EVEN ENOUGH TO NEED GLASSES!

I - I WAS KIND OF HOPEING YOU'D BE ABLE TO TELL ME WHAT WAS WRONG, DOC, WITHOUT MY HAVING TO SPILL THE WHOLE STORY...



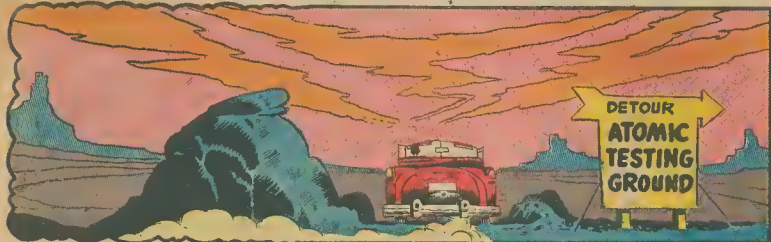
... BUT IT LOOKS LIKE NO-GO! SO HOLD ONTO YOUR SEAT-- HERE GOES! THIS TROUBLE WITH MY EYES STARTED ON MY DAY OFF LAST WEEK...



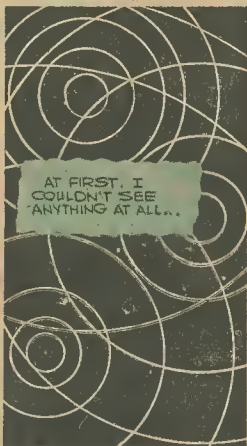
DITKO

UNUSUAL TALES

"I WAS TAKING A RIDE OUT ON THE DESERT ROAD / GUESS I HAD A LOT ON MY MIND--
AND THAT'S HOW COME I DIDN'T SPOT THAT SIGN..."



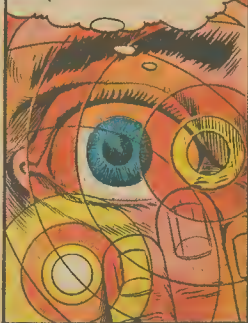
THE NEXT THING I KNEW...



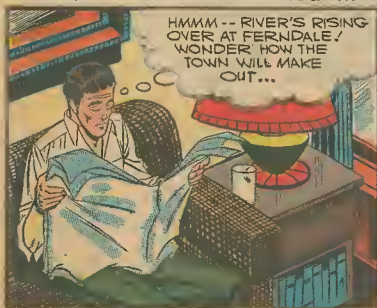
AT FIRST, I
COULDN'T SEE
"ANYTHING AT ALL..."

BUT THEN AFTER A WHILE...

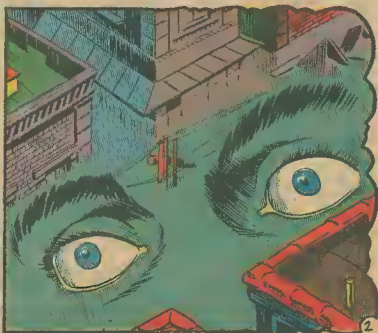
EVERYTHING'S CLEAR
AGAIN! WHEW-- THAT
WAS CLOSE! FOR A
MOMENT I THOUGHT
MY EYESIGHT WAS
A GONER FOR SURE!



I U-TURNED AS FAST AS I COULD, AND I
KEPT TELLING MYSELF I WAS A LUCKY GUY
ALL THE WAY HOME! WHEN I GOT TO THE
HOUSE, I SAT DOWN WITH THE PAPER...



AND THEN IT HAPPENED, DOC! I SAW
TOMORROW IN FERNDALDE..."



100 Toy Soldiers \$1.25



**100 TOY SOLDIERS, MADE OF DURABLE PLASTIC,
EACH ON ITS OWN BASE, MEASURING UP TO 4 1/2"!**

- ★ FUN TO SHOW
- ★ FUN TO TRADE
- ★ FUN TO COLLECT



EACH FOOTLOCKER CONTAINS:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 4 Tanks | 8 Officers |
| 4 Jeeps | 8 Waves |
| 4 Battleships | 8 Wacs |
| 4 Cruisers | 4 Bombers |
| 4 Sailors | 4 Trucks |
| 4 Riflemen | 8 Jet Planes |
| 8 Machinegunners | 8 Cannon |
| 8 Sharpshooters | 4 Bazookamen |
| 4 Infantrymen | 4 Marksmen |

JOSELY CO., DEPT TCH-7

11472 Broadway
New York 36, N.Y.

NO
C.O.D.'s

HERE'S MY \$1.25 !

Rush the TOY SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name

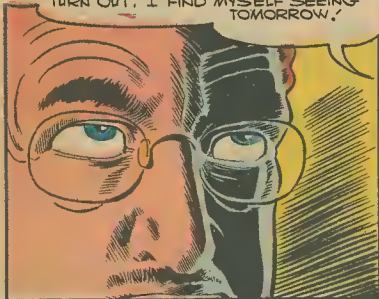
Address

City State

Canada and foreign orders send \$1.50 postal
money order!

UNUSUAL TALES

...THE NEXT DAY'S PAPERS SHOWED THAT I'D SEEN RIGHT, AND IT'S HAPPENED TWICE SINCE THEN, DOC. EVERY TIME I WONDER HOW SOMETHING'S GOING TO TURN OUT, I FIND MYSELF SEEING TOMORROW.



I DON'T LIKE IT... IT SCARES ME! I'M JUST A PLAIN JOE. PLEASE, DOC, TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO!

HMMM...



...I SHOULD SAY THE BEST THING WOULD BE FOR YOU TO TAKE A REST. YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY BEEN UNDER A STRAIN LATELY; AND...

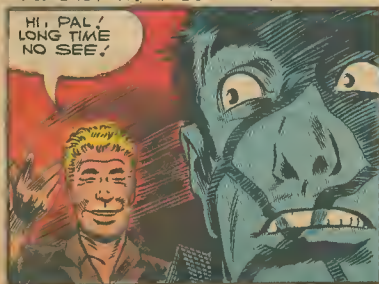
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?



HOW CAN YOU HELP ME... IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?



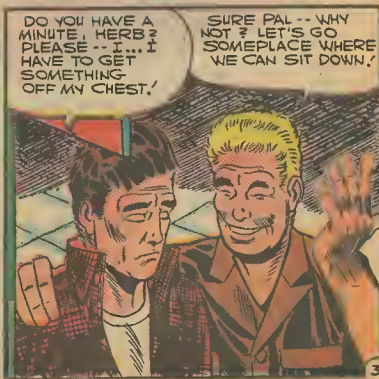
AFTER I LEAVE THE DOC, I KEEP WALKING THE STREETS, I KEEP TRYING TO FORGET THAT HE THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY -- BUT I CAN'T. I HAVE TO TELL ALL THIS TO SOMEBODY WHO'LL BELIEVE ME -- OR I'LL BUST...! SUDDENLY...



HI, PAL / LONG TIME NO SEE!

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE, HERB? PLEASE -- I... I HAVE TO GET SOMETHING OFF MY CHEST!

SURE PAL -- WHY NOT? LET'S GO SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN SIT DOWN!

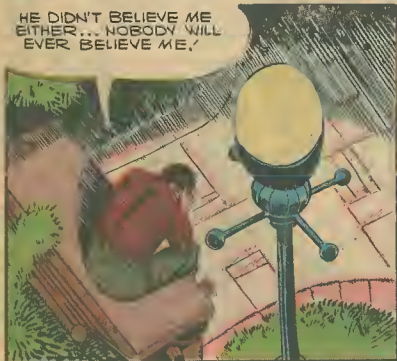


UNUSUAL TALES

SO I TELL HERB JUST WHAT I TOLD THE DOC, AND WHEN I'M FINISHED...



HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME EITHER... NOBODY WILL EVER BELIEVE ME.



HMPF--I THINK YOU SHOULD GO ON THE WAGON, YOU MUST BE HITTING THE BOTTLE PLENTY TO BELIEVE MALARKY LIKE THAT.



HEY, BUB,



I HEARD THAT STORY YOU JUST TOLD... AND I BELIEVE, YOU.

I - I'VE SEEN YOUR PICTURE IN THE PAPER, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU'RE FRED BLACK, THE RACKETEER.



THAT'S RIGHT, AND I'M HARD UP FOR CASH RIGHT NOW, IF I DON'T GET MY HANDS ON SOME SOON, SOMEBODY I OWE DOUGH TO IS GOING TO GIVE ME A ROUGH GOING OVER, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME.



UNUSUAL TALES

LEAVE ME ALONE, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

SHUT UP!

WHEN FRED BLACK ASKS FOR HELP-- HE GETS IT, OR ELSE!

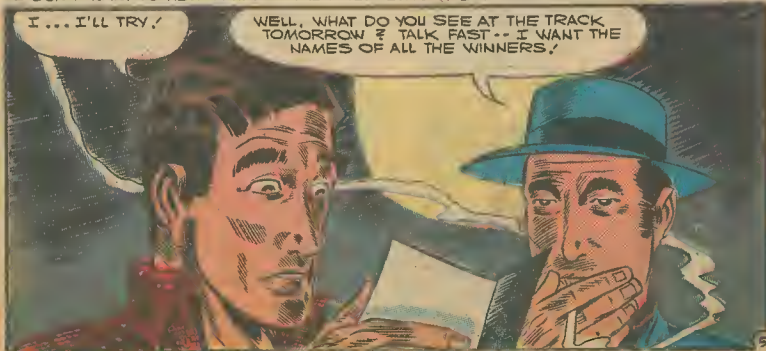
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO-- LOOK AT THIS SHEET AND TELL ME ALL THE WINNERS AT THE RACETRACK TOMORROW!

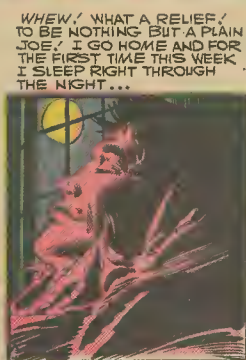
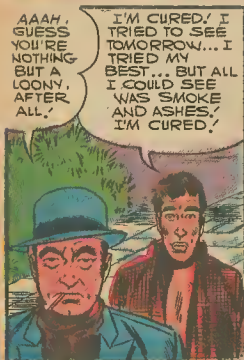
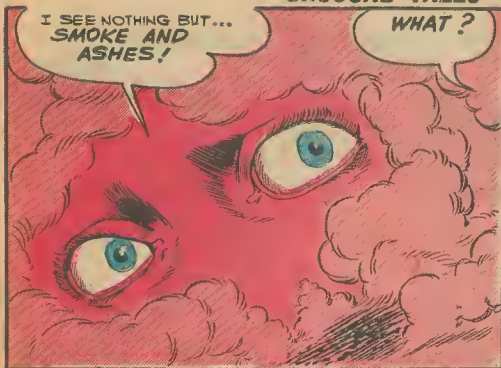
I DON'T WANT TO HELP A HEEL LIKE FRED BLACK, BUT HE'S A ROUGH ONE! SO...

I ... I'LL TRY!

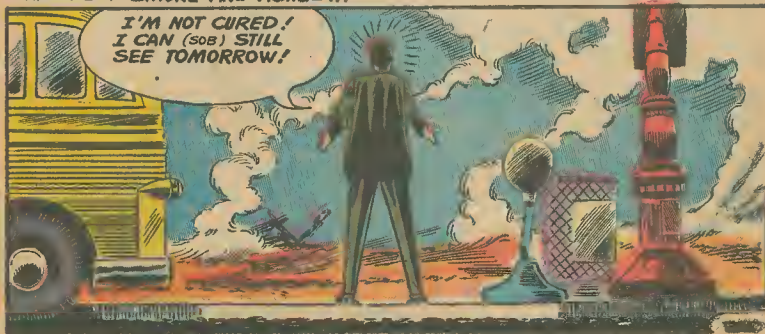
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SEE AT THE TRACK TOMORROW? TALK FAST-- I WANT THE NAMES OF ALL THE WINNERS!



UNUSUAL TALES



THERE WAS A FIRE HERE LAST NIGHT ... AND NOTHING'S LEFT TODAY OF THE RACE-
TRACK BUT **SMOKE AND ASHES...**



I AM NOT ME



I am not Robert Lloyd Gunter! I am John Patterson! John Patterson isn't John Patterson! He is Robert Lloyd Gunter! I'm not crazy! I wish somebody would believe my story. Didn't you ever wish you were somebody else? A little girl with a rag doll often dreams that she is a Princess living in a beautiful castle. A little boy dreams that he is a hunter in Africa. The fellow without a college education wishes he had spent four years and obtained a good learning. The travelling salesman wishes he could stay at home. Just in one place. On the other hand the man who lives in one place wants to travel. That's life. Most of us deep down in our hearts want to be somebody else.

I too, wanted to be somebody else, but in one respect I differed from the millions who wanted to be somebody else. I really became somebody else! And what makes it so unusual is that the somebody else I wanted to be, become me. We switched identities! And now I want to be myself.

They say that jealousy is a poison. All my life I was jealous of my cousin Robert Lloyd Gunter. We were born within one month of each other in the town of Watersville. Our mothers were sisters and we lived in adjoining houses. As a kid I can tell you the first incident that happened. We were walking along the road together. Suddenly Robert stopped and bent down.

"Look!" he shouted with glee in his voice. "A silver dollar. All mine. I found it."

Yes, he found it. Yet I was walking side by side with him. Why couldn't I have found that dollar? It was right there in the road. But I didn't show I was angry or jealous. Somehow at that early age I learned to conceal my true feelings. And then three months later we were walking near the Bridgemon Building. It was a rainy windy day.

"We better get home in a hurry," I suggested. "It's going to rain cats and dogs."

Mrs. Hilda Clark was leaving the Bridgemon Building. Robert looked up into the sky. He saw that large top stone starting to fall. He gave a shout that would have stopped anything in the world.

"Look out! The stone is falling!"

Mrs. Hilda Clark jumped back into the entrance of the building. Robert grabbed my

hand and pulled me to the side. Down came that stone. The old lady realized he had saved her life, and I guess he also saved mine. So he became the sensation of the town.

"Boy Hero saves two lives," is how they gave him the top heading of the local newspaper. They made such a fuss over Robert, and not any over me. See, what I mean? I could have looked up into the sky. I could have seen that stone. I could have been the hero.

So they gave him a medal, and Mrs. Clark gave him a ring. It was fashioned from some kind of a precious stone.

"I bought this in the Orient," she told Robert. "Always wear it on the third finger of your left hand. It will bring you good fortune. They say it was fashioned with a mystic charm. It will withstand heat. I dropped it into a fire, and it wasn't damaged."

Everybody told me how much I should like Robert. He saved my life. We should always be together. Like him? I hated him! But he liked me. We were in school together. Then there was that county spelling bee. We were runners-up in the contest.

"How do you spell hieroglyphic?" the teacher asked.

I got it wrong. He knew it. Just one word, and so he won another prize. It was the same way with girls as we grew older. I remember Mary-Anne. She was beautiful. I asked her to come with me to the senior prom at our high school.

"Sorry, John," she replied, "I promised to go with Robert."

And she did. So I also hated her. Why couldn't she go with me? Robert, Robert, it was always Robert.

Then there was the matter of the tennis team. I didn't know about it until later.

"John just hasn't it in him to be a good tennis player," said Coach Bill Hartman. "You are going to be Captain of the team."

"But he is my cousin," pleaded Robert. "Put him on the team and I'll do everything to help him."

So that's how I got onto the tennis team. He had to put in his two cents. I hated and envied him, but it was that summer that I got the idea I wanted to be Robert, not myself!

We received an invitation, the two of us, to spend three weeks with our rich Aunt Ella.

She had what looked like a palace. So many servants. A big swimming pool, and horseback riding. That's how it happened, when he went horseback riding.

Just the three of us were out on the bridle path. A rabbit jumped out from behind a bush. Aunt Ella's horse bolted. My horse was nearest to hers. I wasn't scared, but Robert's horse cut me off. He rescued Aunt Ella. I'll never forget what she told him.

"I am going to put you in my will. When I die you will receive a million dollars."

I didn't sleep that night! I wanted to be Robert. Why did I have to be John? He was getting all the breaks of life. When we went home he looked at his ring.

"Maybe Mrs. Clark was right. This certainly is a lucky ring."

Jobs were hard to get that year. Mr. Thompson offered him a top job in his big Hardware Store.

"But what about my cousin, John?" asked Robert. "He needs a job. Give him a job and you have the two of us."

I didn't know about this double deal until later. It only made me hate Robert more and more. You are right, but then jealousy is such a terrible poison when mixed with envy.

Everybody knew that Robert was headed for success. Mr. Thompson kept on promoting him, giving him more and more money, and finally he offered him a partnership in the store. All the time I was behind the counter. Weighing stuff, taking orders, and becoming more and more irritable.

"You need a good rest," Robert told me. "Overwork! Tell you what we'll do. We'll spend a week on Lake Ocoka. Mr. Thompson will lend me his cabin cruiser. Just the two of us."

I thanked Robert. But somehow in my mind a little idea was growing bigger and bigger. The time had come to get rid of Robert. Then there would be no more competition from him. I could really be like Robert. It was Louise who made me determined to get rid of Robert. We were both dating her.

"I like you about the same," she would tease us. "I can't make up my mind as to whether I want to be Mrs. Gunter or Mrs. Patterson."

That did it! With Robert out of the way I could advance in the store, and I'd get Louise.

But what was most important of all was the simple fact that I would no longer play second fiddle to Robert.

We left for Lake Ocoka on a Monday morning. In the afternoon we were on the cabin cruiser. It was peaceful. But I was trying to figure out how to get rid of Robert when I noticed that lucky ring sort of shining on his finger.

"Wish I had it," I sort of remarked sadly.

"Then take it and be happy, and may it bring you all sort of luck."

He took it off and I put it on the third finger of my left hand. Two minutes later the motor exploded and we were trapped in a blazing boat. I remember Robert trying to push me overboard to save me. That's all! For five months I was in the hospital. In a bed next to Robert. They used the new navy technique of treating burns. But our faces had been completely destroyed. So we had rebuilt faces.

I took my first look at my rebuilt face in a mirror and then screamed.

"You gave me the wrong face! I am not Robert Lloyd Gunter. I am John Patterson!"

They did their best to try to explain I was all confused. I had the ring on my finger. That was the only way to identify who was who.

"Ask Robert," I shouted. "He'll tell you who is who."

They explained this was impossible. The other "me" had lost his memory. He would start life anew. Fingerprint identification was impossible because of the burns. We had perfect sets of teeth without dental charts to show the difference. So I had to remain Robert Lloyd Gunter. Louise made matters worse.

"I am marrying John," she told me. "He needs me."

Aunt Ella died, and in her will left the million to John Patterson! She noted that Robert seemed to have all the breaks of life. About time John had one.

I will never be in need of money as my cousin made a financial arrangement to take care of me. I forgot to mention I was unable to work. But get this straight. I am not Robert Lloyd Gunter! I am John Patterson! John Patterson isn't John Patterson! He is Robert Lloyd Gunter. I'm not crazy!

— THE END —

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 26, 1911, AS AMENDED BY THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1915, AND JULY 3, 1918 (TIT. 9, U.S. STAT. CODE, SECT. 721) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF:

UNUSUAL TALE.

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Editor: E. L. Lipp, 1000 N. 1st St., Columbus, Ohio.

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2. The names and addresses of the owners and persons who have or have had a direct or indirect interest in the publication during the year.

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15. The names and addresses of the persons who have or have had a direct or indirect interest in the publication during the year.

EDWARD L. LIPP, Editor.
George W. and Associates, before me the 23rd day of September, 1915.
Edward A. Mead (Notary Public).
(My commission expires April 1, 1915).

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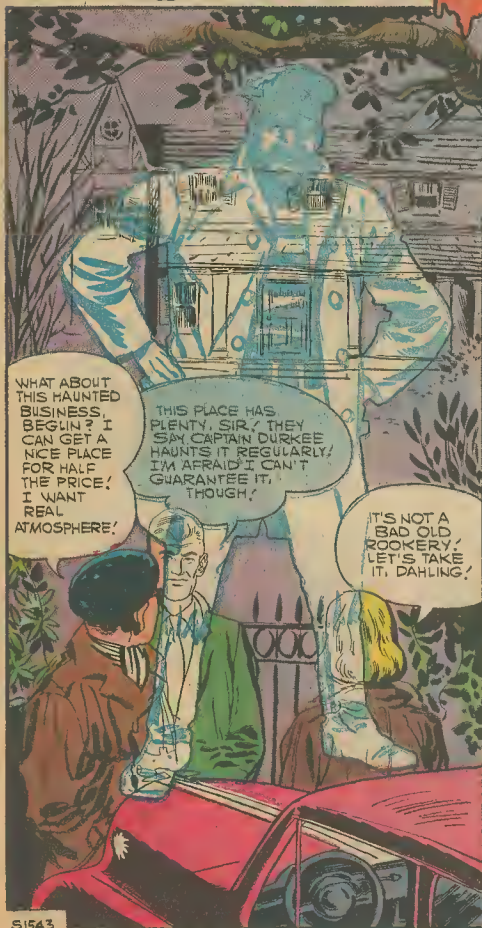
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UNUSUAL TALES

THE BEAUTIFUL OLD HOUSE ON THE HILL OVER THE BAY HAD BEEN EMPTY FOR MOST OF THE HUNDRED YEARS SINCE IT WAS BUILT. MOST FOLKS, EVEN PROFESSOR LANG FROM THE COLLEGE, SAID IT WAS HAUNTED. BUT TO THE BROADWAY PRODUCER WHO LEASED IT, THE LEGEND MADE IT MORE DESIRABLE.

The Captain's GHOST



IT'S ALMOST AS BIG AS THE AUTOMAT! EEEK!

THAT'S THE FIGUREHEAD FROM CAPTAIN DURKEE'S FIRST SHIP. HIS WIFE POSED FOR IT. I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?



UNUSUAL TALES

KEN BEGLIN FOUND THE FUSE BOX, REPLACED THE SMASHED FUSE...

FUNNY, I PUT THIS FUSE IN TODAY AND LOCKED THE DOORS. NOW, THE FUSE IS SMASHED!

YOUR GHOST IS ON THE JOB ALREADY! NICE GOING, BELGIN-- YOU'VE GOT A SHOWMAN'S TOUCH!

THIS PLACE IS DIFFERENT, LIKE SOMEONE'S BEEN LIVING HERE RIGHT ALONG!

THE HOUSE HAS BEEN EMPTY FOR YEARS! NOT MANY PEOPLE WANT SUCH A BIG PLACE!

IT'S NICE OF YOU TO SPEND OUR FIRST NIGHT WITH US. IT *IS* A LITTLE SPOOKY FOR JUST THE TWO OF US.

YOU'RE RIGHT-- EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ALL TOO INTEL-LIGENT TO BELIEVE IN SPOOKS!



KEN BEGLIN LISTENED TO THE STRANGE SOUNDS, THEN HE DOZED OFF. HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOKE HIM...PERHAPS THE STRONG ODOR OF SALT WATER...

I DON'T REMEMBER OPENING THE WINDOW THAT WIDE. BRRR, IT'S DAMP!

BEGLIN WAS JUST CLOSING THE WINDOW WHEN HE HEARD A NOISE--THEN AN EERIE SCREAM...

AAIEEEEE!!

GET OUT OF HERE, WHOEVER YOU ARE! GET UP, SAM-- THROW HIM OUT!!

WAIT A MINUTE, MRS. LASH, WHY DID YOU... WHO'S THAT?!



UNUSUAL TALES



WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN... NO! IT CAN'T BE!

GANG-WAY, LUBBER!



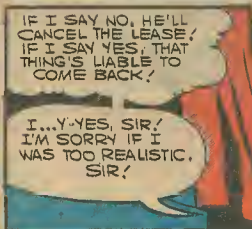
ALL RIGHT, YOUNG FELLOW, I'M GOING TO SUE YOU FOR ATTACKING ME!

I SUPPOSE I KNOCKED MYSELF DOWN TOO!



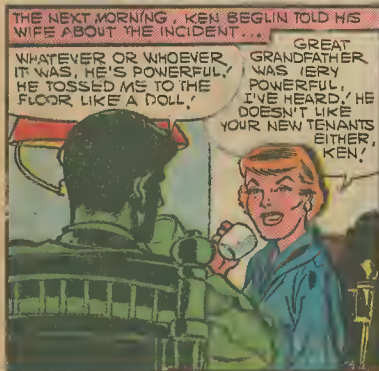
HE WAS KIDDING US, DAHLING, REAL AUTHENTIC, EH WHAT?

WHAT? HMM -- HE'S A POWERFUL KIDDER THEN, IS THAT RIGHT, BEGIN? WAS IT AN ACT?



IF I SAY NO, HE'LL CANCEL THE LEASE! IF I SAY YES, THAT THING'S LIABLE TO COME BACK!

I...Y-YES, SIR! I'M SORRY IF I WAS TOO REALISTIC, SIR!



THE NEXT MORNING, KEN BEGGIN TOLD HIS WIFE ABOUT THE INCIDENT...

WHATEVER OR WHOEVER IT WAS, HE'S POWERFUL! HE TOSSED ME TO THE FLOOR LIKE A DOLL!

GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS VERY POWERFUL, I'VE HEARD, HE DOESN'T LIKE YOUR NEW TENANTS EITHER, KEN!



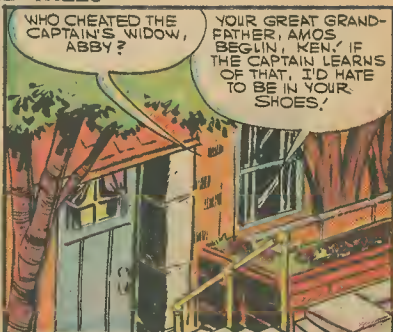
WAS HE YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER? IS THAT WHY YOU WANTED THE HOUSE IN YOUR NAME?

HMM HMM, THE LEGEND GOES THAT GREAT GRANDMOTHER DURKEE WAS CHEATED OUT OF HER PROPERTY AFTER HIS SHIP WENT DOWN!

UNUSUAL TALES



HE HAUNTS EVERYONE BUT A RIGHTFUL HEIR, I'LL HAVE TO SPEAK TO HIM ONE OF THESE DAYS -- TELL HIM IT'S MINE NOW!



WHO CHEATED THE CAPTAIN'S WIDOW, ABBY?

YOUR GREAT GRAND-FATHER, AMOS BEGLIN, KEN! IF THE CAPTAIN LEARNS OF THAT, I'D HATE TO BE IN YOUR SHOES!

MEANWHILE, THE BROADWAY PEOPLE BEGAN FLOCKING IN! THE PRODUCER WAS THROWING A HOUSE-WARMING...

THIS IS MY WIFE, ABBY, MR. LASH! HER GREAT GRAND-FATHER WAS CAPTAIN DURKEE! YOUR PARTY LOOKS LIKE A SUCCESS!

IT IS -- BUT WE NEED YOUR MASTER TOUCH! WHEN THE GUESTS ARE ALL IN BED TONIGHT, PRETEND TO BE A GHOST, HUH?



RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, AS THE OLD CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT...

ALL HANDS ON DECK! I WANT ALL STOWAWAYS OFF THIS SHIP RIGHT NOW! I'LL KEEL-HAUL ANY LAND-LUBBERS WHO MUTINY!

TERRIFIC! KEEP IT UP, BEGLIN!



OH, NO! THE CAPTAIN WOULDN'T...

QUIET, ABBY! I GUESS I COULD MANAGE THAT, MR. LASH! ABOUT MIDNIGHT?



ABBY AND KEN BEGLIN STAYED THAT NIGHT TOO! KEN KISSED HER GOODNIGHT BEFORE HE LEFT FOR HIS GHOSTLY MISSION...

I'LL BE BACK SOON, ABBY! I'LL GIVE THEM A B TYPE SCARE!

BE CAREFUL, BUSTER -- YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET A GRADE A TYPE YOURSELF!



UNUSUAL TALES

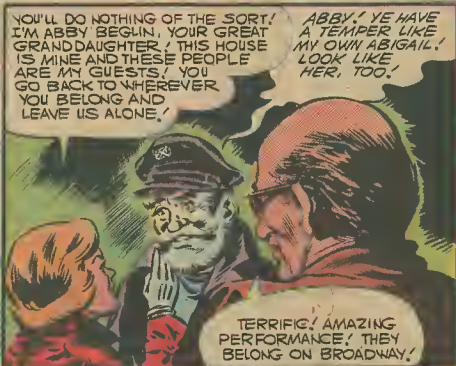


BEGIN! IS THAT SCOUNDREL HERE? I'LL BREAK 'IM IN TWO! WHERE IS HE?

EASY, KEN! I'M CONVINCED! PUT ME DOWN!



GO ON, GAWK! DID YE NEVER SEE A GHOST BEFORE? I'M GOING TO GIVE YE ALL THE DEEP SIX, THROW YE OVERBOARD.



YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT! I'M ABBY BEGIN, YOUR GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER! THIS HOUSE IS MINE AND THESE PEOPLE ARE MY GUESTS! YOU GO BACK TO WHEREVER YOU BELONG AND LEAVE US ALONE!

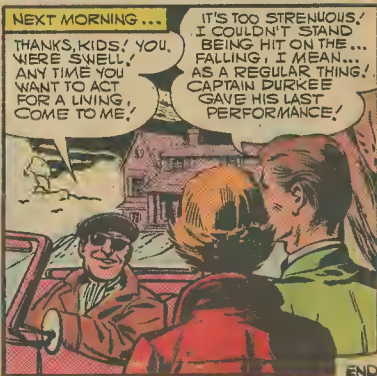
ABBY! YE HAVE A TEMPER LIKE MY OWN ABIGAIL! LOOK LIKE HER, TOO!

TERRIFIC! AMAZING PERFORMANCE! THEY BELONG ON BROADWAY!



NICE WORK, ABBY! LISTEN, DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT ACTING AS A CAREER? OR KEN?

SHHH! WAIT UNTIL THE CAPTAIN IS GONE!



NEXT MORNING...

THANKS, KIDS! YOU WERE SWELL! ANY TIME YOU WANT TO ACT FOR A LIVING, COME TO ME!

IT'S TOO STRENUOUS! I COULDN'T STAND BEING HIT ON THE... FALLING, I MEAN... AS A REGULAR THING! CAPTAIN DURKEE GAVE HIS LAST PERFORMANCE!

UNUSUAL TALES

NORMALLY BRUCE ENDICOTT IS A SOUND SLEEPER-- BUT SOMETHING AWAKENED HIM ON THIS....

STRANGE NIGHT



NORMALLY HE IS THE MOST METICULOUS OF DRESSERS, BUT ON THIS STRANGE NIGHT...

HAVE TO GET SOMETHING ON! DOESN'T MATTER WHAT-- JUST SOMETHING, AND GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE!



NORMALLY, BRUCE ENDICOTT IS THE MOST FEARLESS OF MEN-- BUT ON THIS NIGHT..

I'M SCARED-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT OF... BUT I'M SCARED!



UNUSUAL TALES



UNUSUAL TALES

NORMALLY HE SHUNS THE SLUM DISTRICTS; NORMALLY HE DESPISES ALL THOSE SOFHEARTED FOOLS WHO LIVE CRINGINGLY AT THE FOOT OF THE LADDER OF SUCCESS BECAUSE THEY CAN NOT CHEAT AND LIE! BUT ON THIS STRANGE NIGHT...



I'M WALKING DOWN SKID ROW! WHY?



SUDDENLY HE FINDS HIMSELF MOVED BY A COMPASSION THAT IS COMPLETELY ALIEN TO HIS PERSONALITY...

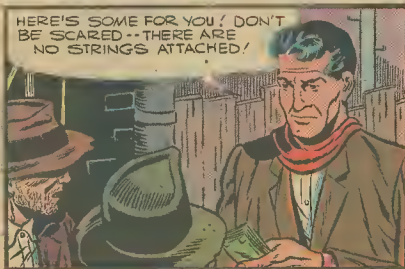
LOOK AT THEM... SO COLD -- SO HUNGRY...



HERE, TAKE THIS! GET YOURSELF A SQUARE MEAL! BUY NEW CLOTHES--GET A NEW START IN LIFE!



HERE'S SOME FOR YOU! DON'T BE SCARED--THERE ARE NO STRINGS ATTACHED!



THE UNFORTUNATES CROWD AROUND HIM -- EAGERLY GRASPING FOR THEIR CHANCE AT A NEW START IN LIFE...

THANKS, MISTER! THANKS!

BLESS YOU!



MAIL COUPON BELOW

PREMIUMS or CASH

Dept. 99, Tyrone, Pa.



UNUSUAL TALES

AND NOW, HIS POCKETS EMPTY, HE GROPES HIS WAY BACK TOWARDS HIS MANSION...

I CAN ALWAYS MAKE MORE MONEY -- BUT WHAT MADE ME DO THIS TONIGHT?



UP TILL TONIGHT, I'D HAVE CALLED THE POLICE IF I FOUND A SINGLE PENNY MISSING -- BUT TONIGHT I GAVE EVERY LAST DOLLAR AWAY! AND ALL I FEEL IS A WARM GLOW INSIDE!



SUDDENLY HE HEARS A STRANGE WHIRRING OVERHEAD AND GLANCES UP...

GASP!



HE KNOWS IN A FLASH WHAT IT WAS THAT COMPELLED HIM TO ACT SO CHARITABLY ON THIS STRANGE NIGHT ---

MERRY CHRISTMAS, BRUCE ENDICOTT!



END

MAKE A

PAYLOAD

FILL IN CARGO COMPARTMENTS
IN THIS SPACE FREIGHTER

TIME LIMIT - 12 KUDAS OR

- 6 SADUKS

(APPLICABLE TO WHICH
EVER PROVINCE YOU
HAPPEN TO BE IN)

ACROSS

1. WIND INSTRUMENT
2. IMPOSTOR IN THE GARDEN
3. ENTRANCE AND EXIT DEVICE
4. TIME FOR THE HANDS TO GET TOGETHER
5. UNANSWERABLE (AS A QUESTION)
6. CHANGE OF DIRECTION
7. FINGER FINALE
8. PLAN OR MAP
9. IT GOT DONE

DOWN

1. LARGE FLAT-BOTTOM BOAT
2. COLOR SYMBOLICAL OF VALOR, OR TEMPER
3. GASEOUS DISTRIBUTOR OF LIGHT
4. ADVERSE DESTINY
5. UNDERGROUND PART OF A PLANT
6. A NAME OF ANYTHING
7. SNARE
8. CLEOPATRA'S RIVER
9. RENDERED FAT
10. BOW
11. WANT



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Joe Louis

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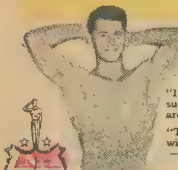
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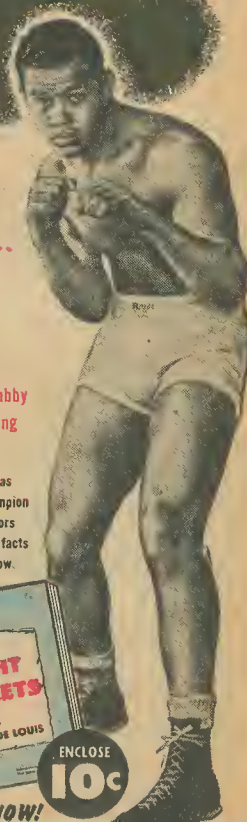
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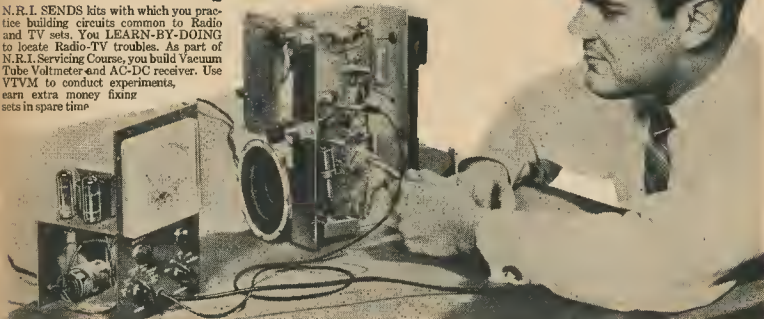
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